

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 375
By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Howard Thomas
"Tommy" Wilder, Jr. on being selected 2002
Shelby County Conservation Farmer of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is the great privilege of this General Assembly to honor and commend those professionals who, through their laudable endeavors in agriculture, have improved the quality of life for all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Howard Thomas "Tommy" Wilder, Jr. of Shelby County is one such estimable individual, having recently been named 2002 Conservation Farmer of the Year by the Shelby County Soil Conservation District; and

WHEREAS, each year, the Shelby County Soil Conservation District and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service staff select a "Conservation Farmer of the Year"; this award is presented to a farmer who has performed outstanding work in applying best management practices in the conservation of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, after attending Millington Central High School, Tommy Wilder attended the University of Tennessee-Martin; since that time, he has been making great strides in the conservation of soil, water, and other related natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilder and his son, Keith, operate Wilder Farms, where they grow corn, wheat, and soybeans; they farm 2,600 acres in Shelby County and 1,644 acres in Tipton County; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Wilder's selection as Conservation Farmer of the Year is indicative of his laudable conservation practices, especially his use of no-till crops, winter cover crops, waterways, terraces, grade control structures, and irrigation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilder rendered valuable and astute service as a member of the Shelby County Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors for twelve years, also serving a term as Vice Chairman; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Tommy Wilder was selected "Most Outstanding Young Farmer of Shelby County" by the Memphis Jaycees in 1979; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and personal accomplishments aside, Tommy Wilder is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of more than 30 years, Ramona, his son, Casey, his son and daughter-in-law, Keith and Bebe, and his new granddaughter, Emma Kate; and

WHEREAS, farmers such as Tommy Wilder are making tremendous progress towards improving the conservation of our natural resources in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause in our deliberations to honor Mr. Wilder for his efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Howard Thomas "Tommy" Wilder, Jr. on being

selected 2002 Shelby County Conservation Farmer of the Year, salute his commitment to agriculture and conservation, and wish him the best in his every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.